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ONARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

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Update

DECEMBER 1994

Provincial leaders discuss women's issues at public forum

Ontario's three provincial party leaders discussed women's issues during a pre-election public forum presented by Council on October 12 in partnership with Toronto's St. Lawrence Centre. Called *Face to Face with the Provincial Leaders*, it was the first time that Bob Rae (NDP), Lyn McLeod (Lib) and Mike Harris (PC) appeared together publicly to discuss topics relevant to women's lives. Moderated by Council president, Jacqueline Pelletier, the event drew a capacity crowd of 500, with people turned away at the door. Each leader spoke for eight minutes and all three answered questions from the audience.

Lyn McLeod cited jobs, training, and safe communities as women's issues. She criticized the government for abandoning welfare reform and dismissed the JobsOntario record of only one job in three for women. She also attacked Harris' *Common Sense Revolution*, saying it calls for the elimination of pay equity, employment equity and rent controls. She pledged that her government would reduce taxes by five percent over five years, help small business get capital and cut their set-up and running costs. Under a Liberal government, a family violence court would speed up cases involving domestic violence, violent men would be removed from their homes, plea bargaining in stalking charges would be disallowed, serial killer cards violent slasher films would be banned.

Premier **Bob Rae** stated that his government has given Ontario the

most progressive labour relations in North America, the most extensive pay equity coverage and the highest minimum wage. He pointed out that JobsOntario has created 60,000 jobs, that the childcare budget has been increased by 62% since 1990, that working conditions have been improved for home workers, that parental leave was introduced, that same sex benefits have been granted to government workers, and that employment equity will improve the workplace for women. In terms of health, he cited the full OHIP coverage for Ontario's five free standing abortion clinics, the funding and integration of midwives into Ontario's healthcare system, and Ontario's six new breast screening centres. He promised steady effective government, which would continue to respect equality between men and women.

Mike Harris outlined three stories to illustrate that Ontario's education and justice systems do not

work, and that the government's determination to drive private childcare operators out of business is the wrong approach. He referred to his party's *Common Sense Revolution*, a series of plans he said would bring common sense back to government. He called his plans a four billion dollar job creation plan of tax cuts that would be the equivalent of a 13% pay raise for the average Ontario family. These plans identify how provincial spending could be cut from \$55 billion to \$49 billion by setting priorities, eliminating waste, cutting red tape, reducing payroll taxes and would result in the creation of more than 725,000 new jobs in Ontario. He announced that his vision for Ontario would bring prosperity and jobs with equal opportunities for all to share in both.

See next page for questions asked by the audience, a letter to the leaders and other election info.



Bob Rae, Lyn McLeod, Jacqueline Pelletier and Mike Harris relax before the leaders forum at St. Lawrence Centre

Continued from the front page.

Questions from the audience

On the question of government spending, Rae pointed out that Harris' proposed \$6 billion cuts would likely come from community and social services and social assistance. Half the people on social assistance are children and he emphasized that cuts in these areas are not progressive. Harris directed people to read his document, and insisted that his government could maintain better services with \$49 billion. McLeod expressed doubts and stated that her government would keep the commitments to education, healthcare without user fees, childcare, social service programs, even with a 5% reduction in taxes by encouraging economic growth and expenditure reductions in areas where there are ineffective government programs.

Asked about their position on the extension of family survivor and adoption rights to same sex couples, Harris replied that his party did not support the legislation brought forward by the government and would not support such legislation in the future. McLeod's government could support the extension of health and sick leave and pension benefits to same sex couples but not legislative changes that would redefine

"spouse", or "family" or extend adoption rights. Rae reiterated his support for his government's attempted legislation and hoped that legislators would have the courage to change the laws some day.

Regarding violence, Harris referred to his *Blueprint for Justice and Community Safety in Ontario* which directs the emphasis away from criminal's rights to victim's rights. His party has also tried to introduce a Victim's Bill of Rights for the last nine years. McLeod said her party is committed to tighten up decisions about parole, and to make it mandatory for crown attorneys to oppose bail for those violating peace bonds or ignoring court orders to stay away. Rae cited his government's 50% increase in funding for programs that deal with violence and pledged his government would continue to support programs combatting violence. Other questions were raised about Grandview, jobs, disabilities, employment equity, user fees/drug costs and social reform. ♦

What if every woman votes...

Council has produced a limited supply of *What if every woman votes ...* buttons. It's essential for women to be informed about the issues and to vote in all elections. When the provincial election is called, we encourage you to take a friend, take a group, vote for the party of your choice, the person of your choice, but vote! If you'd like a button, call us at: (416) 326-1840 (collect calls accepted in Ontario).



If you'd like to run as a candidate in the next provincial election, you can obtain packages of information from the following sources:

Commission on Election Finances,
151 Bloor St. W., Suite 1110
Toronto M5S 1S4, (416) 325-9401

Elections Ontario, 51 Rolark Dr.
Scarborough M1R 3B1, (416) 321-3000

New Democratic Party of Ontario
184 Main St., Toronto M4E 2W1
(416) 699-6637

Ontario Liberal Party
10 St. Mary St., Ste 210
Toronto M4Y 1P9, (416) 961-3800

Progressive Conservative
Party of Ontario
425 University Ave., Ste 700
Toronto M5G 1T6, (416) 979-1265

Even if you don't run, consider supporting your candidate financially. The amount can be as small as \$5 — every bit helps. Donations are tax deductible with a receipt. ♦

Letter to the leaders



Although the forum took place in Toronto, we encourage women in other parts of Ontario to inform the leaders about other issues.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a letter you can send to the three leaders. (See page 5). Here is your chance to let them know what's important to you and other women in your area. Just fill it in and mail it to Council's office. We'll forward it to the three leaders and report their responses in our next newsletter.

Regional Meetings

Last March, local member Rosanne Perron hosted a series of meetings in **Thunder Bay**, which were also attended by President Pelletier, vice-president Eva Shields, North Bay member Pat Tobin and Lise Nolet, Ottawa. At the public meeting, attended by over 60 women, a wide range of issues were discussed including childcare, health care delivery in Ontario's remote regions and reserves, ineffective job creation programs geared to women, and difficulties in accessing funds for community economic development. We met with several local women's groups, including Northwestern Ontario Women's Decade Council, Northern Women's Centre, Immigrant and Visible Minority Women's Organization and L'Accueil Francophone, where we discussed issues important to local women. The meeting with Decade Council resulted in a letter writing campaign to the government about childcare reform. At a meeting with students and faculty at Lakehead University, we were informed that of the 260 professors, only one in five is a

women, leaving very few role models for young women.

All these issues and others that we hear in our consultations are brought to the government's attention. We meet with government ministers, write letters, and vigorously follow-up with the government.

Pelletier and Shields travelled on to **Atikokan** and met with several women who raised concerns about the lax response to violence by the justice system and inquired about the status of the Victim's Bill of Rights.

More recently, Pelletier and central Ontario members Anne Balding and Pam Jackson swung through **Kingston, Belleville, Campbellford, Ameliasburg and Trenton**. Meetings were held with various women's groups in these areas, and specifically with women on the military base in Trenton. A wide variety of concerns were brought forward and we are in the process of discussing these with the government.

Later this year, meetings will be held in London and Ottawa. ♦

Getting Government Grants

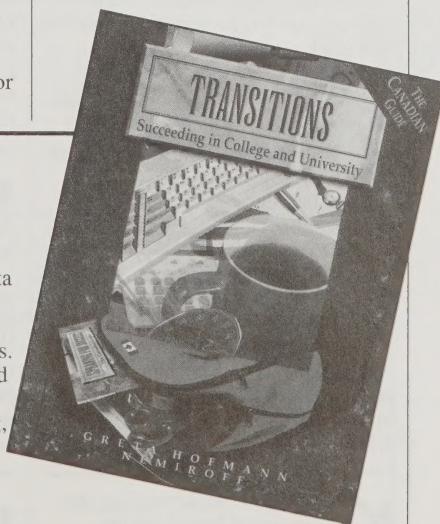
The Ontario Women's Directorate (OWD) has developed a funding information kit for women's groups in Ontario. Called *Getting Grants for Women*, the kit was developed in response to the community's request for information about funding sources and practical tips on writing effective proposals. Besides being a funding source guide, it contains a proposal writing booklet and the OWD's handbook on the Community Grants Program. Kits can be obtained by calling the Grants Unit at (416) 314-0383 or (416) 314-0384. Collect calls in Ontario are accepted. ♦

Reappointments and New Members

Lise Nolet (Ottawa) and **Veronica Dryden (London)** have been reappointed by the government until January 1997. Appointments were also extended for the following until January 1998: **Pam Jackson (Grafton), Jo-Anne Johnson (Windsor), Rosanne Perron (Thunder Bay) and Tolou Rouhani (North Bay)**. Sudbury now has representation, as **Pat Tobin**, formerly of North Bay has moved to Sudbury. Pat has received a faculty appointment to serve as the co-ordinator of field and admissions at the School of Social Work, Laurentian University. A new Council appointment, **Lynda Nancoo, Toronto**, is a founding member, fundraising co-ordinator and community outreach worker for ERDCO (Ethno-Racial People with Disabilities Coalition of Ontario), a group promoting awareness of culture and disability. The other new member, **Dorothy Wynne, Fort Albany**, recently moved from Kapuskasing where she was volunteer at the Native Friendship Centre. She is now Co-ordinator of the Native Healing Centre in Fort Albany. Lynda and Dorothy are appointed to Council until January 1997. ♦

University/College Transitions

Many students beginning to attend college or university experience difficulty in making this important transition. Council member Greta Hoffmann Nemiroff has written *Transitions: Succeeding in College and University* (Harcourt, Brace & Company, Canada) a user-friendly guide for undergraduate university and college students of all ages and backgrounds. The first chapter examines choices available to students: on what basis should they choose their programs, their schools, their courses. What should they do if they've made wrong choices? Subsequent chapters discuss money, housing, succeeding, learning and study skills, motivation, and strategies for staying well. The book costs \$12.95 and is available at college and university bookstores throughout Ontario, your local bookstore or through the publisher's customer service department: (416) 255-4491 or 1-800-387-7278. ♦



Breast Screening Clinics:

Ontario has six more breast screening clinics, bringing the total in Ontario to 16. These centres will be up and running in January 1995 and are located in Sault Ste. Marie, Cambridge, Guelph, Peterborough, Owen Sound and Renfrew/Pembroke. For further information on these and other centres, call: 1-800 668-9304. Council would like to see a centre in the far north. We also view the breast screening clinics as excellent models for health care that should be replicated in other health delivery services.

 **Childcare Reform:** The government will not be undertaking childcare reform as was promised in the previous election platform. Council expects that women throughout Ontario will raise childcare reform as an election issue.

 **Employment Equity** legislation was proclaimed on September 1, 1994. Council believes government must undertake an immediate public education campaign to combat backlash. Council will track implementation and compliance of employment equity.

 **Job Training:** The Ontario Training and Adjustment Board (OTAB), has just launched network of local boards in 25 Ontario communities. Local boards are responsible for identifying and helping to address local training needs. Members will be nominated by the groups they represent: business, labour, women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, francophones, educators and trainers. For further information, call the OTAB hotline: 1-800-387-5656.

 **Legal Aid:** In September, the government bailed out the

Issues Update

financially troubled Ontario Legal Aid Plan through a \$60 million loan plan. The Law Society, which administers the Plan, must repay the loan over a four year period. There will be some changes to legal aid including restricting a client's ability to change lawyers once a case begins.

 **Long Term Care:** Long Term Care Bill 173 provides for a system of co-ordinated services to help people in their own communities and homes. Council member Lise Nolet made a presentation to the committee conducting public hearings this past summer. Lise and other groups pointed out some of the problems that could occur by decentralizing these services and the impact decentralization will have on women, as caregivers and care receivers. At press time, the Bill was to undergo third reading during the fall session of the Legislature.

 **Sexual Orientation:** The Equality Rights Statute Law Amendment, Bill 167 was defeated in a 68-59 vote June 9, 1994. The bill would have granted equality rights to same-sex couples by amending the Human Rights Code. There has been discussion of same sex rights at the federal level, but no legislation is planned. As already reported, the three provincial parties have clear stands on this issue.

 **Substitute Decisions Act** becomes law in January 1995.

This new law allows you to choose someone in advance to make decisions for you about property and personal care in the event you become mentally incapable. If no one close to you is available and willing to become your guardian, there is some possibility that the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee may have to make decisions on your behalf should you become incapable. For more information about the Act and to receive the Power of Attorney kit, please contact an information officer at the Office of the Public Trustee (Ministry of the Attorney General) (416) 314-2989 – collect calls accepted. Council believes the government must undertake a public education campaign to allay peoples' misunderstanding and fears about the new law.

 **Strippers:** Underage girls are working as strippers in clubs throughout Ontario. The government has launched a three-pronged crackdown: regulations in the Liquor Licence Act are being changed to prohibit strippers under 18; municipalities are being urged to launch their own crackdowns; talks are planned with the federal government to explore amending the Criminal Code of Canada.

 **Social Security Reform,** another federal issue, will also impact the provinces as the federal government plans to make changes in Canada's social safety net. There will be a huge impact on programs such as Unemployment Insurance, employment services, federal support for post secondary education, social assistance and childcare. Council is monitoring this issue.

 **Taxation of Child Support:** Although this is a federal issue, it will affect all the provinces when the Supreme Court hands down its decision. Council supports the Canadian Advisory Council position that child support payments should not be taxed but that there should be alimited, refundable tax credit for child support payers. ♦

Speaking Internationally

The presidents of the advisory Councils meet annually, and last June, Council co-hosted with the federal Council, a meeting in Ottawa. As part of this 3-day business meeting, we held a public event in Ottawa, which featured internationally renowned feminist, environmentalist and activist

Bella Abzug.

Bella talked about her early experiences in politics and the 1995 UN Conference on Women in Beijing. As head of the Women's Environmental and Development Organization (WEDO), Bella is particularly interested in international politics and likened the UN today to Congress in 1971 when she arrived and found herself the lone woman. Among the UN's 174 nations, Bella listed seven women ambassadors, five presidents and three prime ministers. "It's all very man-made — and it's shown how successful that is," she told the crowd. Bella has been the driving force behind the international women's network pushing to have women's concerns discussed at

the UN's conferences. The women's network had some impact at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, but it was at this year's UN conference on population and development in Cairo that women's issues came to the forefront.

Discussions on reproductive health and rights turned much of the

conference into a debate about female empowerment. The Cairo conference in September enshrined the idea of reproductive rights and reproductive health and outlined a 20-year plan to curb population growth. Next September (95), the fourth World Conference on Women will be held in Beijing. ♦



Bella Abzug (centre) flanked on her left by former Council member Lucy Spencer, vice-president Rosalind Cairncross; on her right by Council president Jacqueline Pelleter and Glenda Simms, President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

LETTER TO THE LEADERS

Note: Clip the letter below, write in your questions, plus your name and address.

Mail it BY JANUARY 20, 1995 to: ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S ISSUES, 880 BAY ST., 5TH FLOOR, TORONTO, M7A 1N3.

December 1994, Attention: Bob Rae, Lyn McLeod, Mike Harris

Dear Leader:

I was not at the October 12 public forum sponsored by the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues, but I would like to ask the following question:



This is an issue of great importance to me — and to other women in Ontario. I look forward to your response to the question I have raised.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

Postal Code _____

COUNCIL Update

The Council was established at arms-length from the government in 1973 and is in a unique position to question the government's direction and policies. Council's mandate is to advise the government through the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues on matters pertaining to the achievement of economic, social and legal equality for women, to respond to requests from the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, to hold regional meetings with the purpose of gathering the views of women on issues of concern in the regions; to meet annually in Toronto at which time members will have the opportunity to meet with the Premier and other Cabinet members. There are 15* members, including the president, all appointed on a part-time basis.

*Currently one vacancy

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Lydia Oleksyn

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jacqueline Pelletier

President, Gloucester

Rosalind Cairncross

Vice-President, Toronto

Eva Shields

Vice-President, Atikokan

Anne Balding, Bancroft

Veronica Dryden, London

Greta Hoffmann-Nemiroff, Ottawa

Pam Jackson, Grafton

Jo-Anne Johnson, Windsor

Lynda Nancoo, Toronto

Lise Nolet, Ottawa

Rosanne Perron, Thunder Bay

Tolou Rouhani, North Bay

Pat Tobin, North Bay

Dorothy Wynne, Fort Albany

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HAVE YOU MOVED? MOVING SOON?

If your mailing address has changed, please let us know at the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues, 880 Bay Street, 5th floor, Toronto M7A 1N3.



Did you know that:

- ◆ the most popular song of all time was written by females? "Happy Birthday to You" was written by Mildred Hill and Patty Smith Hill in 1893.
- ◆ it was a female who first exposed the harm humans were doing to the environment, igniting the world's environmental movement? In 1962, marine biologist Rachel Carson wrote *Silent Spring* in which she described the damage that pesticides were doing to our ecological balance.
- ◆ a female anesthesiologist devised a test that has saved the lives of countless newborns? The test, called the Apgar Score, named after Virginia Apgar, is used to determine the health of a baby right after it's born.
- ◆ when Mary Robinson was elected president of Ireland in 1990, she captured 52.8% of the vote, but the oddsmakers predicted 100 to 1 odds against her winning.
- ◆ in Norway, not only is there a female prime minister (Gro Brundtland), but all three of Norway's main political parties are headed by women.
- ◆ that women invented many of the devices that make our lives easier such as the dishwasher, the bra, Scotchguard, and the drip coffee maker, to name a few.
- ◆ "Barney", so beloved by small children, was created by two women: Sheryl Leach and Kathy Parker.
- ◆ in the American elections held last month, only 39% of Americans bothered to vote. In Ontario's last election (1990), 65% of the population voted, and in the 1993 federal election, there was a 69% voter turnout.

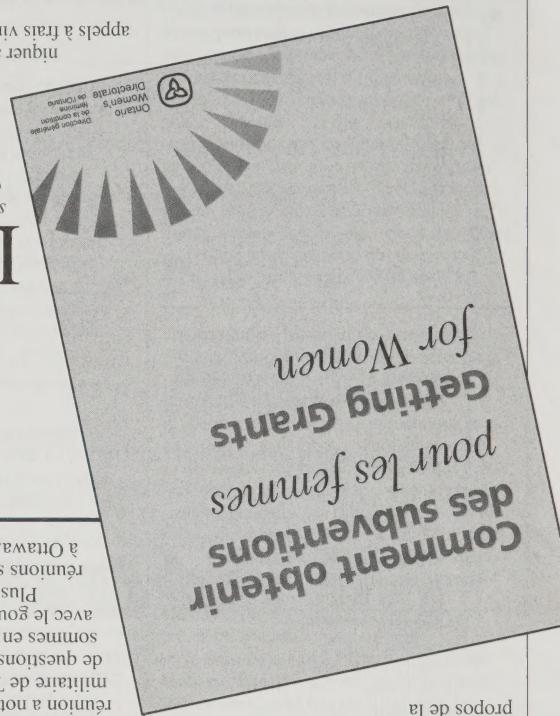
Comment obtenir des subventions gouvernementales

gouvernement jusqu'à l'an dernier 1997. Les membres une seconde fois jusqu'à sa mort en 1998 : Pam Jackson (gratton), Rosemary Perron Johnson (Wimdsor), Rosanne Perron (Thunder Bay) et Tolou Rouhani (North Bay). La région de Sudbury est représentée par Tolomin, qui représente également North Bay. Le rôle nomme coordonnatrice des placements établie maintenant à Sudbury. Par Tolomin a nouvelle nomination au Comité : Linda Namcoo, Toronto, est membre fondateur. L'Université Laurentienne. Une sociale des admissions à l'école de service des nouvelles nominations au Comité : Linda Namcoo, Toronto, est membre fondateur, avec une autre coordination comme unité de campagne de l'association de l'Ontario, un groupe visant à sensibiliser le public à la diversité culturelle et aux handicaps.

La autre nouveauté membre, Dorothy Mylne Fort Albany, a reçommencé à travailler comme bénévoile au centre d'accueil autochtones. Elle est à présent coordinateur du Native Helpline Centre à Fort Albany. Linda Dorothy

soit nommée à Comité jusqu'en Janvier 1997. #

Second mandat et nouvelles nominations



Les chefs des trois partis provinciaux discutent de questions touchant à la condition féminine lors d'un forum public

CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DE L'ONTARIO SUR LA CONDITION FÉMININE DECEMBRE 1994

En dernière heure



Votre page suivante les questions
l'auditorie et des renseignements sur
les élections.

methodes. II parle de la Révolution du bon sens de son parti, une sorte de programmes gouvernement de faire perdre aux privés leur liberté et au mauvais.

La famille moyenne gagne 13 % pour les programmes d'entretien commun les plus importants de la province, qui dépendent du Gouvernement provincial, qui dépasse 49 millions de dollars, pourtant passez à 55 millions de dollars, pourtant dépendent des provinces, en éliminant les pertes, en réduisant la trame, et comment ces mesures permettent-elles un abaissement l'impôt sur le «paperasserre», en abaisseant l'impôt sur les emplis dans Ontario. II amorce que sa vision a également porté fruits pour tous les autres possiblités d'emploi et des emplois importants les plus importants.

Mike Harris fait appel à trois historiens pour démontrer l'inefficacité du et les hommes.

de congés payés variait de moins en moins avec le niveau d'emploi et améliorait le milieu de travail dans l'ensemble des mesmes avantages sociaux que l'individualisation des emplois du gouvernement et de l'industrie. Les emplois du secteur public étaient plus favorables aux femmes que les emplois du secteur privé. Les emplois dans l'industrie étaient moins favorables aux femmes que les emplois dans l'agriculture et l'artisanat. Les emplois dans l'industrie étaient moins favorables aux femmes que les emplois dans l'agriculture et l'artisanat. Les emplois dans l'industrie étaient moins favorables aux femmes que les emplois dans l'agriculture et l'artisanat.

es chefs des trois partis provinciaux de l'Ontario ont

CONTINUATION

Andrea fōn

Answers

Leadership

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LES CHIENS

U.S. Dept. of State

ANSWER The answer is 1000. The first two digits of the product are 10.

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100% of the energy consumed by the U.S. electric power industry is derived from fossil fuels.

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